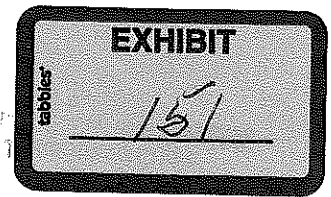




BUREAU OF CONSERVATION  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



FEB 13 2010

Mr. Stacey,

## Quinnipiac River Watershed Association

I am writing in support of the proposed stream flow standards developed by the DEP in conjunction with stakeholders in CT's watershed basins that for the first time recognize waterways as themselves users of water. At the same time it seems class 4 negates this very objective by writing off urban waterways, which constitute some of the most socially significant resources in CT.

Water is a limited natural resource that has value in itself like land, vegetation, and wildlife. Natural resources, especially in our ever more populated world, need scientifically based management to sustain. Economics also provide a viable means of management. When gas reached \$4/gal. Sales of gas-guzzlers slumped, as did miles driven in CT. With like management, water guzzling could be addressed. Water companies, utilities, and business predict dire consequences if their consumption of water is further restricted, yet running water is necessary for a healthy eco-system, only part of which involves human activity. We have a responsibility to be effective stewards of the environment, as well as shrewd business professionals when it comes to management of our natural resources.

As a result of erratic diversion and release of both running and ground water, Sodom Brook, which runs near my home, and the Quinnipiac River both suffer from excessive bank, and buffer erosion with subsequent vegetation clutter and silt deposits. This interferes with the waterways recreational and aesthetic value, and affects the rivers wildlife. CL&P rights of way, business, and residential property are all affected. In Meriden it has become an issue with development of its linear trail system, which runs along Sodom, and the Quinnipiac.. In Southington a golf course was able to draw water while private wells went dry. These issues could be addressed in a manner that treats waterways as a valuable asset worthy of protection.

In a state mandated study of the Quinnipiac Basin in 2000 it was concluded that minimum streamflow standards needed to be established to sustain life in the river.

Will Connecticut's streams and rivers suffer the same fate as our natural springs, which have all but disappeared? Will our children look at us quizzically when we try to explain what open natural running water was like?


Please consider the rivers as significant stakeholders in this process.

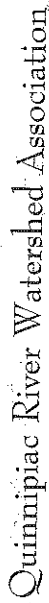
Thank you,

David James  
Board member  
Quinnipiac River Watershed Association

WWW.QRWA.ORG

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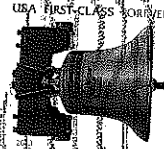
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PO Box 2825, Meriden  
Connecticut 06450

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Paul Stacey  
Bureau of Water Protection, DEP  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Figure 6

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